

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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FOR AMBASSADOR WELLS

FOLLOWING SINGAPORE 3149 SENT ACTION SECSTATE JULY 27, 1977
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 3149

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, SN, US

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: GOS PARTICIPATION IN UN

REF: (A) STATE 159747, (B) SINGAPORE 2778, (C) 76 SINGAPORE 0978
(D) SINGAPORE 1347

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON SINGAPORE'S PARTICIPATION IN
UN IS KEYED TO PARA 7 OF 76 STATE 037591.

2. (A) SINGAPORE'S
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PRINCIPLE MULTILATERAL INTERESTS ARE:

ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT OF ASEAN AS A CLOSE-KNIT REGIONAL
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ASSOCIATION, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE
SINGAPORE WITH A PRIVILEGED MARKET FOR ITS INDUSTRIAL
PRODUCTION, PRESERVE FOR SINGAPORE ITS ROLE AS REGIONAL
FINANCIAL AND TRADE CENTER, AND CONTRIBUTE GENERALLY TO
REGIONAL STABILITY AND THE MAINTENANCE OF MODERATE, PRO-

WESTERN GOVERNMENTS IN THE ASEAN COUNTRIES.
CONCLUSION OF A SATISFACTORY LOS TREATY, PARTICULARLY IN
THE ISSUES OF TRANSIT OF INTERNATIONAL STRAITS AND OF
LANDLOCKED, SHELFLOCKED AND GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED
COUNTRIES. GOS BELIEVES THAT STRAITS ISSUE IW WELL ON
WAY TO RESOLUTION, WITH MALAYSIA SATISFIED WITH RESULTS
OF RECENT LOS CONFERENCE SIXTH SESSION AND INDONESIA
RECONCILED TO COMPROMISE THAT INCLUDES ACCEPTANCE OF
ARCHIPELAGIC PRINCIPLE. GOS MUCH LESS HAPPY ABOUT
COASTAL STATES RELUCTANCE TO MAKE CONCESSIONS TO
GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED COUNTRIES SUCH AS SINGA-
PORE.

GOS WILL PURSUE THESE INTERESTS LARGELY OUTSIDE UNGA
FRAMEWORK, ALTHOUGH ASEAN COUNTRIES INCREASINGLY SEEK TO
COORDINATE THEIR POSITIONS ON SIGNIFICANT UN ISSUES
(SEE BELOW).

3. GOS PRESENTLY PLANNING NO INITIATIVES IN RESUMED 31ST
OR REGULAR 32ND UNGA SESSIONS. MFA OFFICER TOLD US
FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM WILL MAKE "ROUTINE" SPEECH AT
31ST UNGA. NOR WILL GOS SEEK MEMBERSHIP IN MULTILATERAL
BODIES OR PROPOSE SINGAPOREAN CANDIDATES FOR UN OFFICE.
GOS ONLY RARELY HAS SOUGHT OFFICE IN ITS BRIEF HISTORY:
IT HAS TWICE BEEN RE-ELECTED TO UNCITRAL, IN WHICH IT IS
INTERESTED BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE TO SINGAPORE OF INTER-
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NATIONAL TRADE REGULATIONS, AND WAS MEMBER OF NOW DEFUNCT
SEABEDS COMMITTEE. AS A RULE, GOS WILL SUPPORT CANDIDATE
FROM OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES.

4. (B) GOS POLICY IS TO VOTE WITH G-77 AND NO
-ALIGNED
GROUP WHENEVER IT CAN DO SO WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE
TO ITS OWN INTERESTS OR SERIOUS CONFLICT WITH ITS FOREIGN
POLICY PRINCIPLES. GOS IS EVEN MORE RELUCTANT TO BREAK
RANKS WITH ASEAN PARTNERS, ALTHOUGH IT HAS OCCASIONALLY
DONE SO (E.G., ABSTAINING ON TIMORE ISSUE, DESPITE HEAVY
INDONESIAN PRESSURE, BECAUSE OF ITS POLICY ON SELF-
DETERMINATION). DEPARTMENT IS AWARE ON SINGAPORE'S
GENERALLY MODERATE STANCE AMONG LDCS AND ITS EFFORTS TO
INFLUENCE ASEAN COLLEAGUES TO SUPPORT POSITIONS IT CONSIDERS
REALISTIC (E.G., GOS HAS PLAYED USEFUL PART IN MODERATING
LDC DEMANDS IN LOS CONFERENCE).

5. (C) MFA OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT GOS MISSION TO UN PRE-
PARES BRIEFS RECOMMENDING POSITIONS ON SIGNIFICANT ISSUES
EXPECTED TO BE RAISED AT UN MEETINGS, INCLUDING UNGA.
THESE ARE REVIEWED AND NORMALLY APPROVED BY GOS. IF A

QUESTION IMPORTANT TO SINGAPORE ARISES UNEXPECTEDLY, MISSION CABLES RECOMMENDED POSITION TO GOS AND THIS TOO IS LIKELY TO BE APPROVED, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN EXCEPTIONS. IN EFFECT, GOS MULTILATERAL EXPERTISE IS LARGELY LOCATED IN NEW YORK AND IT ENJOYS CONFIDENCE OF GOVERNMENT, ALTHOUGH ALL IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS OR POSITIONS ARE REVIEWED HERE. THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT U.S. REPRESENTATIONS TO MFA ARE WITHOUT EFFECT; SMALL MFA MULTILATERAL STAFF IS COMPETENT AND REASONABLY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT KEY UN ISSUES; STRONG U.S. VIEWS WILL BE TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT; SINGAPORE IS KEENLY INTERESTED IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., BOTH BILATERALLY AND IN THE ASEAN CONTEXT.

6. (D) AND (E) REF C REPLIES ON THESE PARAS REMAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VALID. FOR GENERAL STATEMENT ON GOS MULTILATERAL OBJECTIVES, SEE SINGAPORE'S PARM (REF D).

7. MFA INFORMS US THAT AMBASSADOR KOH HAS BEEN ASKED TO STAY ON AT UN FOR THREE MORE YEARS. HOLDRIDGE UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 17-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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